

The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle.

Young Jennet Device was brain washer by the local magistrate Roger Nowell and Thomas Potts to betray her family she was only about 10 years of age.

In the quiet area of Pendle, nestled amidst the hills of Lancashire, lived a girl named Jennet Device. Her story, a mix of tragedy and resilience, would become entwined with the infamous Pendle Witch Trials, forever altering her life and the course of history. Jennet was a child of about ten when she found herself drawn into the dark web of accusations and suspicion that surrounded the Pendle Witches. In a time when superstition and fear reigned, her innocent words were twisted, leading to the conviction of several individuals for witchcraft. The weight of her words would haunt her for years to come.

So what happened to Jennet Device after her 34th birthday? She ventured beyond the boundaries of her past, and the promise of a new start. Others sought economic opportunities, adventure, or simply a chance to escape the constraints of their old lives. Among these settlers, Jennet Device found herself.

Leaving behind the haunting memories of the Pendle Witch Trials, Jennet sought solace in the New World. She yearned for a fresh beginning, a chance to escape the stigma that had followed her from her childhood. The journey across the treacherous Atlantic was not easy, but her determination carried her through the challenges.

Upon arriving in the United States, Jennet initially settled in a small Puritan community in New England. The strict religious atmosphere was a far cry from her tumultuous past, and she relished the opportunity to reinvent herself. Changing her last name to Davison, she attempted to distance herself from the infamous Device name that had become synonymous with witchcraft in Lancashire.

Jennet's resilience and adaptability served her well as she integrated into her new community. She embraced the Puritan way of life, attending church regularly and adhering to their strict moral code. Despite her efforts to move forward, however, the shadows of her past still lingered in her heart. The memories of betrayal and manipulation haunted her, and she struggled to fully escape the trauma of her childhood.

As years turned into decades, Jennet found herself becoming a respected member of her community. Her skills as a healer and herbalist, which had once been viewed with suspicion, now gained her the trust and admiration of her neighbors. Yet, even as she found acceptance, a part of her remained guarded, a result of the scars left by her past experiences.

Jennet's story serves as a reminder of the lasting impact of injustice and the resilience of the human spirit. She survived a childhood marked by manipulation and fear, and despite the odds, she forged a new life for herself in a distant land. Her journey is a testament to the power of individuals to overcome adversity and find their place in a world that often seems unforgiving. And so, the young girl who had unwittingly played a role in the Pendle Witch Trials embarked on a journey beyond the boundaries of her past, seeking a fresh start in a new land. Her story, like the pages of history, is a complex tapestry of tragedy, resilience, and the enduring pursuit of a better life.

By Donald Jay